

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 508, 13-15, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakuma, U.S. Patent 5,530,461 in view of Phillips, U.S. Patent 6,817,693, U.S. Patent 6,318,828. Claims 2, 9 and 16 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakuma in view of Phillips or Barbour, and further in view of Haines, U.S. Patent 6,808,255. Claims 21,22, 24-28, 30-34, 36 and 37 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phillips in view of Sakuma. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The independent claims of this application have been amended to clarify two features. First, the printing device prints by an electrophotograph method and collects the toner remaining on a sensitizing drum by using the developing roller while rotating the sensitizing drum as a sequence independent of the printing sequence to clean the sensitizing drum. Applicants submit that none of the cited references teach or suggest this feature.

The claims have also been amended to clarify that when the printing device increases cleaning frequency in the safety mode compared to the standard mode, the printing device executes a cleaning process per printing job in the standard mode and executes a cleaning process per printing page in the safety mode. Although Sakuma teaches that the cleaning time can be changed by counting the number of printed pages or printed characters (see col. 7, line 66 to col. 8, line 1), Sakuma does not specifically teach that the cleaning frequency is once per printing job for the standard mode and once per page for the safety mode. Sakuma may generally disclose that the frequency can be increased for a so-called safety mode, but Sakuma fails to specifically teach the claimed frequency combination for the standard mode compared to the safety mode. Thus, Sakuma fails to teach or suggest this feature. The other cited references likewise fail to teach or suggest this feature.

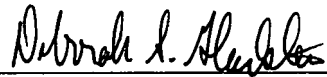
Accordingly, applicants request that all rejections be withdrawn.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and

authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772034100.

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